



A NEW CHAPTER

2024-2025



...the largest and most representative organisation of Europe's autochthonous national minorities, nationalities and language groups



...the umbrella organisation of more than 100 minority organisations from 38 European countries



...a mutual support community and the main advocate of minority rights in Europe

**FUEN
IS...**



the voice of the minorities at international organisations, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



We run three offices: in Flensburg, Berlin and Brussels



A NEW FUEN CHAPTER

2025 marks a turning point in the life of FUEN. At the 2024 Congress we celebrated 75 years of work in the interest of the autochthonous national minorities and language groups in Europe, but it was also an opportunity to start planning for the next 75 years.

The 2025 Congress, to be held in October in South Tyrol, will mark a new chapter in the history of the organisation, the end of a decade marked by the leadership of Loránt Vincze, elected President in 2016, and also the end of the third and final terms as Vice Presidents for Gösta Toft and Daniel Alfreider. It has been nine years of growth, of increased importance and significance for the organisation, including a stable financial situation, and we would like to wholeheartedly thank the leaders for their work on achieving this. Of course, our thanks also go out to the other Presidium members past and present, our partners, supporters and the excellent FUEN staff.

2025 also marks the final chapter in the most important FUEN project of the last decade, the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI). It was a beautiful story, which united many communities for one common goal. We are proud of what we have accomplished with it, and will continue our fight for minority rights in Europe.

As our member organisations are getting ready to elect new leaders from their ranks, the planning for the next chapter also continues with the Minority Manifesto for the Future, to be presented at the Congress. This is year one of the next 75, so get ready for the change!

FUEN EVENT CALENDAR 2024/2025



2024

- ▶ **23.09.** Planning session with advisors to FUEN President and MEP Loránt Vincze – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **27.09.** Participation in networking breakfast on the occasion of the European Day of Languages, organised by the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD) – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **03.10.** Participation in educational conference on minority pre-school education, organised by the Representation of the European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino (Euregio) – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **08.10.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- ▶ **10.10.** Meeting with FUEN TAG Brussels representative Deniz Servantes – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **11.10.** Publication of the Minority Monitor article “Linguistic Diversity under Hate Attacks” – Online
- ▶ **13.–16.10.** 33rd Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **15.10.** Presentation about FUEN for a group of minority NGOs from Central and Southern Europe participating in the Minority Rights Group project – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **16.10.** Political meetings in the German Bundestag with Johann Saathoff, Filiz Polat, Petra Nicolaisen, Astrid Damerow and Gyde Jensen – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **17.10.** Meeting with the Brussels team of the Coppieters Foundation – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **23.10.** Opening of the advocacy office of the Roma minority of Romania, with participation of FUEN President Loránt Vincze – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- ▶ **24.10.** Participation of FUEN Vice Presidents Gösta Toft and Bahne Bahnsen in a coffee meeting at the Danish Consulate General – Flensburg, Germany
- ▶ **30.10.** EUROPEADA 2028 introductory meeting – Online
- ▶ **30.10.–01.11.** Second thematic conference of the FUEN project “Women of Minorities” – Athens, Greece
- ▶ **30.10.–02.11.** 10th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) – Ankara, Türkiye
- ▶ **06.11.** Publication of the Minority Monitor article “Hate Speech in Media and Social Media” – Online
- ▶ **07.11.** Meeting with Lohitzune Txarola, Director of “Langune” from the Basque Country – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **07.–08.11.** Participation of FUEN President Loránt Vincze and Vice President Bahne Bahnsen in the international conference “National minority policy in the European Union”, organised by the Hungarian EU Presidency – Budapest, Hungary
- ▶ **11.11.** Press conference on the 8th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Donostia/San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain
- ▶ **12.–22.11.** Publication of interview series featuring selected speakers from the 8th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Online

- ▶ **14.11.** Visit of a student group from Finland to the FUEN office – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **14.–17.11.** 27th Seminar of the FUEN Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM) – Košice, Slovakia
- ▶ **22.11.** FUEN calls on Members of the European Parliament to support the re-establishment of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **24.–25.11.** FUEN Vice Presidents Bahne Bahnsen and Gösta Toft meet with Basque organisations and political representatives ahead of the 8th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Donostia/San Sebastián and Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain
- ▶ **26.–28.11.** 8th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Donostia/San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain
- ▶ **28.–29.11.** Participation of FUEN's European Dialogue Forum (EDF) and Turkic member organisations in the 17th session of the United Nations Forum on Minority Issues – Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶ **03.12.** Participation of FUEN President Loránt Vincze and Vice President Olivia Schubert in the “Andreanum” conference at the Hungarian National Assembly – Budapest, Hungary
- ▶ **03.–04.12.** Participation of FUEN President Loránt Vincze in the interparliamentary conference on cultural heritage and the identity of national communities, organised by the Hungarian EU Presidency at the Hungarian National Assembly – Budapest, Hungary
- ▶ **05.12.** Meeting with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO) – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **09.12.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **10.–12.12.** FUEN team building meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **11.12.** Participation of FUEN President Loránt Vincze in a conference on minority rights organised by the Hungarian EU Presidency at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **19.12.** Meeting of the FUEN project “Minorities in the Western Balkans” to prepare a 2025 conference in Skopje, North Macedonia – Online
- ▶ **19.12.** Sending of FUEN's election checkstones on minority protection to German political parties ahead of the 2025 Bundestag election – Online
- ▶ **25.–27.12.** Working visit of FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu to Turkish institutions – Ankara, Türkiye

2025

- ▶ **15.01.** Official re-establishment of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament; FUEN President Loránt Vincze elected as Chair of the Intergroup – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **21.01.** FUEN sends letter to German political parties outlining expectations for minority protection ahead of the 2025 Bundestag election – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **23.01.** Election of Vice-Chairs of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- ▶ **27.–29.01.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) with members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France

- ▶ **01.02.** Participation of FUEN Vice President Bahne Bahnsen in the New Year's Reception at the European Office of Rasmus Andresen, MEP – Flensburg, Germany
- ▶ **07.02.** Meeting between FUEN President Loránt Vincze and Dr. Bálint Pásztor, President of the Hungarian Association of Vojvodina; agreement on holding the 9th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions in Novi Sad/Újvidék in June 2025 – Subotica/Szabadka, Serbia
- ▶ **13.02.** Meeting of the Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament featuring presentations from a dozen communities – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- ▶ **23.02.** German federal election: FUEN welcomes continued representation of the South Schleswig Voters' Association (SSW) in the Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **24.02.** Visit of Volodymyr Leysle, Chairman of the Council of Germans in Ukraine, and Ukrainian artist Katja Jacuszek to the FUEN office on the anniversary of Russia's attack on Ukraine – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **04.03.** FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) adopts resolution on the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **05.03.** Publication of the FUEN overview "International Standards on Minority Protection" summarising key instruments and institutions in European and international minority rights – Online
- ▶ **06.–07.03.** Meeting of the "Minorities in the Western Balkans" network – Skopje, North Macedonia
- ▶ **06.–07.03.** During FUEN's "Minorities in the Western Balkans" event in Skopje, North Macedonia, FUEN President Loránt Vincze holds bilateral meetings on Roma rights and EU accession with Shaban Salii and Neždet Mustafa – Skopje, North Macedonia
- ▶ **08.03.** Release of FUEN video portrait "Anikó Orsós – the Roma who never gave up" as part of the "Women of Minorities" project – Online
- ▶ **11.03.** First meeting of the EUROPEADA expert group – Online
- ▶ **12.03.** General Assembly of the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) – Sankelmark, Oeversee, Germany
- ▶ **13.03.** Presentation of the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI) in the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **17.03.** Participation of FUEN Vice President Gösta Toft in the opening event of the Minority Labyrinth by the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) at the Akademie Sankelmark – Sankelmark, Oeversee, Germany
- ▶ **20.03.** FUEN President Loránt Vincze meets Arno Brok, the Dutch King's Commissioner of Fryslân, and Eke Folkerts, Fryslân Regional Minister for Languages – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **21.03.** Meeting between FUEN President Loránt Vincze and new OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Christophe Kamp – The Hague, Netherlands
- ▶ **27.03.** Presentation of the 2024 Minority Report of Schleswig-Holstein in the State Parliament; FUEN Vice President Bahne Bahnsen attends plenary debate – Kiel, Germany
- ▶ **29.03.** Participation of FUEN Vice President Gösta Toft in the 70th anniversary celebration of the Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations – Schleswig, Germany

- ▶ **31.03.** Participation of FUEN Vice President Bahne Bahnsen in the 50th anniversary celebration of the FUEN member organisation "Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse" – Zürich, Switzerland
- ▶ **01.04.** Meeting between FUEN President Loránt Vincze and Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- ▶ **04.04.** Visit of representatives from the Minority Rights Group (MRG) to the FUEN office – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **07.04.** FUEN Vice President Olivia Schubert visits FUEN office and meets with the leadership of the Minority Secretariat of Germany's autochthonous national minorities – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **08.04.** Participation of FUEN representatives in the annual reception of the "Bund der Vertriebenen" (BdV) – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **14.04.** FUEN Vice President Bernard Gaida represents FUEN at the YEN Easter Seminar – Opole/OppeIn, Poland
- ▶ **15.04.** Coordination meeting at the FUEN Brussels office with representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and partner organisations – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **24.–26.04.** Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Hungarian Communities (MKM) – Rijeka/Fiume, Croatia
- ▶ **12.05.** Participation of FUEN Vice President Gösta Toft in a minority policy breakfast discussion at the Akademie Sankelmark – Sankelmark, Oeversee, Germany
- ▶ **12.05.** Meeting of international organisations active in minority protection at the FUEN Brussels office to discuss a common action plan – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **13.05.** Meeting of the European Dialogue Forum (EDF) – Online
- ▶ **13.05.** Participation of FUEN Vice President and AGDM Spokesperson Bernard Gaida in the event "80 Years after the Second World War: Remembrance and the Present in Germany and Eastern Europe" – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **15.–16.05.** Working visit of the FUEN Education Working Group to the German-speaking Community of Belgium – Eupen, Belgium
- ▶ **21.05.** Meeting between FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu and Ambassador Vaqif Sadıqov, Head of Mission of Azerbaijan to the EU – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **21.–23.05.** Participation of the FUEN Education Working Group in the international conference "Multilingualism and linguistic minorities in a global context" – Davos, Switzerland
- ▶ **26.05.** Publication of the FUEN report "Empowering Minority Women in Europe" – Online
- ▶ **26.05.** FUEN Vice Presidents Bahne Bahnsen and Gösta Toft, together with EDF Spokesperson Jens A. Christiansen, meet Danish Minister for European Affairs Marie Bjerre to discuss EU minority policy – Flensburg, Germany
- ▶ **27.05.** FUEN Education Working Group publishes brochure outlining its development, activities and long-term goals in the field of minority education – Online
- ▶ **29.05.–01.06.** 11th Annual Meeting of the FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG) – Varna, Bulgaria
- ▶ **29.05.–01.06.** Annual Meeting of the FUEN Non-Kin-State Working Group (NKS) – St. Vigil in Enneberg/AI Plan de Maréo, South Tyrol, Italy
- ▶ **02.06.** FUEN Presidium meeting – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **05.06.** European Court of Justice rejects appeal on the Minority SafePack Initiative; FUEN issues statement reaffirming commitment to minority protection – Luxembourg & Online

- ▶ **12.–24.06.** Publication of interview series featuring selected speakers from the 9th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Online
- ▶ **17.06.** Delegation of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, led by Chair and FUEN President Loránt Vincze, visits the Council of Europe secretariats of the FCNM and ECRML – Strasbourg/Straßburg, France
- ▶ **20.06.** Participation of FUEN representatives in the German Federal Government's commemoration event "Women, Flight and Expulsion" on World Refugee Day – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **26.–28.06.** 9th FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Novi Sad/Újvidék, Serbia
- ▶ **28.06.** Meeting of the EUROPEADA expert group, held during the FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions – Novi Sad/Újvidék, Serbia
- ▶ **03.07.** Coordination talk with Brussels-based partners on the events organised in Brussels around the European Day of Languages 2025 – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **08.07.** Participation of FUEN representatives in the 75th anniversary conference of Germany's accession to the Council of Europe – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **10.07.** Meeting with the Brussels office of the Association of European Border Regions – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **24.07.** FUEN President Loránt Vincze participates in debate on minority rights and conflict prevention at the Bálványos Summer University – Băile Tuşnad/Tusnádfürdő, Romania
- ▶ **28.07.** FUEN issues a statement condemning the police operation at the Peršmanhof/Peršmanova domačija Museum in Carinthia/Koroška, Austria, calling for investigation and protection of minority rights – Online
- ▶ **05.08.** Participation of FUEN Vice President and AGDM Spokesperson Bernard Gaida in the 75th anniversary ceremony of the Charter of the German Expellees, also attended by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz – Stuttgart, Germany
- ▶ **21.08.** Working visit of FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu to North Macedonia – Skopje, North Macedonia
- ▶ **22.08.** Working visit of FUEN TAG Spokesperson Halit Habip Oğlu to Kosovo – Prizren and Mamusa, Kosovo
- ▶ **23.–24.08.** FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) presents its work at the German Federal Government's Open Day – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **26.08.** Publication of Minority Monitor article "The Crimean Tatars and FUEN's Commitment to Protecting Minority Rights" – Online
- ▶ **17.–18.09.** Delegation of FUEN Vice Presidents holds political meetings in the German Bundestag – Berlin, Germany
- ▶ **22.09.** Release of FUEN video portrait "New Women for a New World" as part of the "Women of Minorities" project – Online
- ▶ **22.–24.09.** European Dialogue Forum (EDF) engages in political talks with representatives of EU institutions – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **23.09.** High-level Reception in FUEN's Brussels office on the occasion of the European Day of Languages – Brussels, Belgium
- ▶ **06.10.** Presidium meeting of the Minority Competence Network of Schleswig-Holstein/South Denmark (MKN) – Flensburg, Germany
- ▶ **23.–26.10.** 69th FUEN Congress – Bozen/Bolzano, South Tyrol, Italy

FUEN CONGRESS

The 68th FUEN Congress, held between 18–22 September 2024 in Husum/Hüsem, Germany, was both a celebration and a milestone, marking 75 years of FUEN's work in defending the rights of national minorities and linguistic communities across Europe. Hosted by the North Frisians, the Congress showcased a community whose cultural resilience and active engagement exemplify how minorities can shape their regions while contributing to stability, prosperity, and diversity. Discussions highlighted the Frisian language's vulnerable position, the campaigns to increase its visibility, and the voluntary efforts sustaining Frisian identity for future generations.

The anniversary gathering brought together representatives from across Europe to reflect on FUEN's history and set a course for the future of minority protection. In his opening remarks, FUEN President and MEP Loránt Vincze celebrated the organisation's achievements while acknowledging the obstacles it has faced. He reaffirmed FUEN's vision of a Europe where all national minorities are recognised, supported, and able to preserve their language, culture, and way of life on an

75 years of FUEN: Our History and Projects

The history of FUEN was presented at the Congress in an exhibition, which can be revisited on fuen.org



equal footing. Former UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Prof. Dr. Fernand de Varennes and Prof. Dr. Paul Videsott presented conclusions from the “Ewald Ammende” conference held in Brussels earlier in the year, noting the lack of significant progress in minority rights protection over the past two decades and calling for a new 21st-century Manifesto on the rights of national minorities. This strategic document would move beyond symbolic recognition to set concrete goals for effective equality, linguistic and cultural diversity, and practical support on the ground.





Throughout the Congress, speakers emphasised that protecting minorities is not just a cultural duty but a core element of European democracy and peaceful coexistence. The Assembly of Delegates adopted FUEN's Main Resolution, calling for a comprehensive EU legal framework for the protection and promotion of autochthonous national minorities, as well as stronger cooperation with the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and civil society. Additional resolutions addressed issues such as attacks against the Turks in the Dodecanese, the protection of Breton place names, minority representation in Albania, language rights in Catalonia, and the safeguarding of the Crimean Tatars and other minorities in Ukraine.





The Congress also served as a platform for key decisions shaping FUEN's future activities. It was confirmed that EUROPEADA 2028 will take place in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy, hosted by Slovene and Friulian member organisations, while the 2025 FUEN Congress will be held in South Tyrol, Italy. Several new member organisations joined the FUEN family, representing minorities from Austria, Finland, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Romania, and Professor Bengt-Arne Wickström was welcomed as an individual member.

Over the course of the event, delegates renewed their commitment to solidarity, cooperation, and advocacy, ensuring FUEN continues to stand as the voice of Europe's minorities. Under the clear autumn skies of Husum, the Congress not only celebrated a proud past but also charted an ambitious path forward – determined to secure a Europe where diversity is both respected and protected.



FORUM OF EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS

When we are saying that the last year was a busy one for FUEN, we are not exaggerating. One of our most important and largest annual events, the Forum of European Minority Regions is a good example, as it had two editions in one year: in the Basque Country in 2024 and in Vojvodina in 2025.

8TH FORUM OF EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS: BENEFITS OF THE LANGUAGE INDUSTRY

The 8th Forum of European Minority Regions took place on 26–27 November 2024 in San Sebastián/Donostia, Basque Country, organised by FUEN in cooperation with LANGUNE, the Basque Association of Language Industries. Under the title “Hizkuntzen Irabazia – Benefits of Language Industry in the Economy”, the forum brought together experts, policymakers and representatives from across Europe to explore how digitalisation is reshaping the future of minority languages. Discussions examined the transformative role of technologies such as machine translation, speech recognition, conversational AI and large language models, highlighting their potential to bridge the gap between widely spoken and less common languages while boosting economic development.

The Basque Country’s language industry, generating €211.3 million in turnover and supporting around 4,600 jobs, was presented as a model of how cultural commitment and technological innovation can go hand in hand. Participants also





addressed the broader economic and cultural contributions of minority languages to regional GDP through education, culture, and media. Alongside the opportunities offered by digital tools – greater accessibility, visibility, and integration into new sectors – speakers identified persistent challenges, including limited funding, scarce linguistic data, and low representation on digital platforms.

Solutions put forward included stronger public-private partnerships, open-source development, closer cooperation with state authorities, and EU support through programmes like Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe. The forum also showcased innovative strategies in the creative sector, from audiovisual production and music to video games and interactive media, emphasising how cultural heritage can thrive in modern digital formats. By the close of the event, participants reaffirmed the equal value of all languages and the need for cross-border collaboration, agreeing that technology, if embraced strategically, can both preserve linguistic diversity and unlock new economic opportunities for minority communities.

9TH FORUM OF EUROPEAN MINORITY REGIONS: THE ADDED VALUE OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN BORDER REGIONS

The 9th Forum of European Minority Regions took place on 26–28 June 2025 in Novi Sad/Újvidék/Nový Sad, the capital of Serbia's Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, organised by FUEN in cooperation with the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ). Held under the title “Talking Money – The Added Value of Minority Communities in Border Regions”, the event examined how national minorities act as bridge-builders in cross-border cooperation and explored the tangible economic benefits they bring to border areas. The setting was especially fitting: Vojvodina is home to 25 ethnic minorities, six official languages, and a multilingual parliament second only to the European Parliament in its linguistic diversity. The host city, a European Capital of Culture in 2022, symbolises the coexistence and vitality of multiple cultures and languages.

High-ranking guests from Serbia, the European Union, and various European regions – including FUEN President and MEP Loránt Vincze, ministers, parliamentarians, and diplomats – emphasised the forum's role as a platform for dialogue, exchange of best practices, and policy influence. Speakers underlined how minorities in cross-border regions strengthen Europe's social fabric, enhance trade, and foster peaceful coexistence by connecting cultures and markets. Practical examples from South Tyrol, Navarre, the Basque Country, Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, and the French-





German border regions showcased the contributions of minority communities to labour markets, tourism, and infrastructure development. Best practices in cooperation were presented by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives (CESCI).

The discussions also addressed the EU accession process, a particularly relevant theme for Southeast Europe, with contributions highlighting the role of minority protection in building democratic societies. While the model of Vojvodina was praised as an example of autonomy, dialogue, and mutual respect, participants also pointed to shortcomings in minority recognition at both national and EU levels. Challenges identified included the lack of a European standard for minority rights, insufficient support from professional networks, and declining prioritisation of minority issues in EU integration policy – concerns echoed by experts from the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

The recognition of minorities as drivers of regional stability, economic growth and European integration would be

important. Suggested solutions included creating binding EU standards for minority rights, fostering public-private and cross-border partnerships, and increasing visibility through cultural and sporting initiatives. In this context, the forum dedicated a session to sport as a tool for building bridges, featuring EUROPEADA football teams from Serbia, Croatia, Italy and the UK, who shared stories of cooperation, cultural pride and breaking down historical barriers.

Alongside keynote speeches and panel discussions, the forum offered a rich programme of networking and cultural exchange, including a visit to the multilingual city of Subotica/Szabadka and meetings with representatives of the Hungarian, German and Macedonian national councils. Over two days, 140 participants exchanged ideas, shared successful models and reinforced the message that minorities in border regions are not just cultural assets, but vital actors in Europe's political, economic and social future. The event concluded with a call to harness this potential through stronger recognition, targeted support, and cross-border collaboration – ensuring that minority communities can continue to shape Europe.

MINORITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



The minorities in the Western Balkans region face many different challenges, but they also have common causes, and addressing hate speech in all its forms is one of them. Working together to combat this harmful practice promises to bring more results. This became clear during the Western Balkans Network Meeting, organised on 6–8 March 2025 in Skopje, North Macedonia by FUEN with the support of NALAS and R.C.C. DROM.

The event brought together government and local representatives, institutions and minority organisations from the Western Balkan countries, as well as from France, Ukraine and Romania to discuss approaches to address hate speech against minorities, the situation of the Roma minority, minority education and education about minorities to the majority. Alongside the panels, the event also included a workshop on combating hate speech and a guided tour of Skopje.

The participants of the Minorities in the Western Balkans meeting agreed on a Statement. They welcomed FUEN's involvement in combating hate speech, urged states to combat it with legislation, enforcement and the full force of law and called on the international organisations to update their legal provisions and adopt new standards to protect minorities against hate speech.

The participants agreed that education in minority languages is the first and most important step for people belonging to minority communities to preserve their identity. They also discussed the role education has in the fight against hate speech and against discrimination in general. "States must ensure that minorities, their history, culture and language are presented in the majority education school curricula in an accurate, balanced,



professional and relatable way, fostering understanding between majority and minorities”, says the statement.

Upholding minority rights in the Western Balkans countries is crucial for the minorities, and it is also an essential requirement of the EU accession process, a common goal of minority communities. The participants emphasized that regardless of the internal and international situation, communication channels between the majority and the minorities must remain open, and expect FUEN to facilitate good communication in the interest of minorities and society.

The participants called for real solutions to the situation of the Roma minorities and for FUEN to continue to represent the interests of these communities at EU level. Anti-Roma attitudes, discrimination and marginalisation of Roma communities must be actively combatted and eliminated in Western Balkan countries in accordance with the active politics and measures of the European Union.

The representatives of Roma organisations and institutions proposed the use of the expression “anti-Roma” instead of “antigypsyism” and “antiziganism”.

Envisioned as a constructive and action-oriented dialogue series regarding existing challenges to minority rights in the Western Balkans region and possible mechanisms to address them, engaging all levels of stakeholders, the project kicked off in the summer of 2023, with a very successful conference organised in Osijek/Eszék, Croatia.

At the beginning of 2025 an online discussion was organised with FUEN's member organisations from the region to identify the topics of interest for the conference in Skopje. The programme of the Western Balkans Network Meeting was put together in a way to reflect on the identified topics of interest.



MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE

The Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI) was clearly the most important political project of FUEN in the past decade. Started in 2013 as a European Citizens' Initiative calling for the protection and promotion of the cultures and languages of Europe's autochthonous national minorities and language groups, it had a long and rollercoaster-like road. It marked the very first time the nationalities of Europe had set a common goal. Through building a strong and lasting solidarity network of hundreds of organisations, it managed to collect more than one million signatures from European citizens, to obtain the support of the Bundestag, the Hungarian and the Dutch Parliaments, regional parliaments and even the European Parliament. It became a reference point for all organisations and experts working in the field of minority protection, many calling it the most important achievement of the last decades in minority protection. What it did not achieve, though, was its ultimate goal, a framework for the protection of minorities in the EU, due to the European Commission's decision to not act on it.

On 5 June 2025, the European Court of Justice delivered its final decision on the Minority SafePack Initiative. The Court dismissed the appeal and once again upheld the European Commission's decision not to propose legal acts based on the European Citizens' Initiative.

The Citizens' Committee, the FUEN and their partners have accepted the Court's decision and believe that the EU has failed to provide a fairer and more equal society for all its citizens. Unfortunately, this came as no surprise: the signals from their direction were clear – the EU still does not wish to address the issue of minority protection, which is considered too sensitive by some member states. Consequently, people belonging to national minorities and linguistic groups feel consistently left out of all EU actions on diversity, equality, and justice, including the rule of law.

FUEN expresses its gratitude towards all who have contributed to the efforts: the Citizens' Committee, RMDSZ,

SVP, and YEN as initiators; the campaign team; attorney Thomas Hieber and his team for representing the MSPI; the hundreds of organisations involved; the more than one million supporters; the European Parliament, the Bundestag, the Hungarian and Dutch Parliaments, and the regional parliaments that offered their support.

The rights of national minorities and language groups in Europe have regressed over the past decade. Many communities face cultural assimilation and the loss of their languages. European institutions and national governments



MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE

DU BIST NICHT ALLEIN. EINE MILLION
UNTERSCHRIFTEN FÜR DIE VIELFALT EUROPAS

still fail to grasp the gravity of the situation. The FUEN and its partners remain committed to continue the fight for the protection standards of national minorities and language groups in Europe.

In the fall, the FUEN and its partners will launch a "Minority Manifesto for the Future", which outlines a vision and a common action plan for all minority organisations in Europe. This initiative will call on the EU, the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the UN to protect and promote minority cultures and languages and to safeguard their rights.

We will build on these achievements and will continue to lead the fight for minority protection in the EU.



DISCUSSION OF THE MINORITY MANIFESTO WITH CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS AT FUEN BRUSSELS

On 12 May, international organisations active in minority protection met at the invitation of FUEN to discuss a common action plan for the future. In the discussions participated FUEN President Loránt Vincze, Secretary

general Éva Péntzes, NPLD Chair Anna Jungner-Nordgren, Vicent Fenollar from the NPLD Brussels Office, Iganasi Centelles from the Coppieters Foundation and Neil Clarke, representing the MRG Brussels Office.



LINKING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WITH THE FUEN WEBSITE

In February, FUEN's website introduced a new subpage: a collection of key international minority protection standards issued by the EU, the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. This includes treaties, resolutions, conventions, charters, declarations and numerous thematic recommendations on national minorities.



PARTNERSHIPS

FUEN sees itself as a community based on solidarity and collaboration. This is why we maintain a large network and contacts to the European minorities and their organisations, to policymakers, scientific institutes, youth organisations, media, cultural and educational institutions and other partners.

The FUEN collaborates with a wide range of institutes and organisations in Europe and beyond: Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD), Mercator Network, Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), European Language Equality Network (ELEN), European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), European Academy (EURAC), Tom Lantos Institute (TLI), Coppieters Foundation. We participated in and organised many events involving these partners of ours.



LORÁNT VINCZE BECOMES CHAIR OF THE MINORITY INTERGROUP

The European Parliament's Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages was reestablished on 15 January in Brussels. The continuation of the work of the only EU forum dealing with minorities was backed by more than 40 MEPs from all political groups. The high level of support for the forty years old Minority Intergroup is proof that there are many MEPs, old and new, who believe it is important for the European Union to deal with the issues of autochthonous national and linguistic minorities and to have a European framework for their protection.

FUEN President Loránt Vincze, Member of the European Parliament (RMDSZ, EPP) was elected chair of the Intergroup.

During the 10th legislative term, the Minority Intergroup will be chaired by FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze (EPP, RMDSZ). MEP Kinga Gál, who co-chaired the Intergroup for 20 years, was honoured for her long-standing dedication by being appointed honorary president. Vice-Chairs: EPP MEP Łukasz Kohut, representing the Silesian minority in Poland, PöE MEP Annamária Vicsek, representing the Hungarian minority in Serbia, Renew MEP Anna-Maja Henriksson, representing the Swedish speaking minority in Finland and Greens/EFA MEP Vicent Marzá Ibáñez, representing the Valencian Country.

After the European elections, FUEN called for the re-establishment of the Minority Intergroup, as the only EU forum dealing regularly with minority issues. A Congress Resolution asked for this to happen, and FUEN also addressed all MEPs in letters asking for their support.

THE MINORITY SAFEPAK INITIATIVE PRESENTED IN THE MINORITY INTERGROUP

The European Citizens' Initiative, calling upon the European Union to adopt a set of legal acts to improve the protection of persons belonging to national and linguistic minorities and strengthen cultural and linguistic diversity was presented in the European Parliament's Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages on 13 March 2025 in Strasbourg.

Attorney Thomas Hieber, who has been representing the Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI) for nine years, presented the initiative coordinated by FUEN. He highlighted the MSPI's remarkable political impact, including:

FUEN PRESIDENT MEETS OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES

The new High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Christophe Kamp, received FUEN President, Member of the European Parliament Loránt Vincze at his office in The Hague on 21 March.



The FUEN President spoke about the deterioration of the situation of minorities in Europe in recent years and the European Union's refusal to protect and support autochthonous minorities. At the meeting, he presented FUEN's activities, highlighting the Minorities in the Western Balkans and the Forum of European Minority Regions, and the working groups inside FUEN. He also spoke about the challenges of the accession process of the Western Balkans and Ukraine to the EU, with a special focus on improving the situation of minorities.

- » Political commitments of several Member States to pursue its objectives, including in the German coalition agreement of 2021.
- » The Conference on the Future of Europe recommends strengthening the protection of minority and regional languages and to set up a language diversity centre.
- » FUEN was invited to participate in stakeholder dialogue on access to and availability of audiovisual works across the EU
- » The Proposals of the European Parliament to amend the EU Treaties also include important amendments on the protection of national minorities and minority and regional languages and to address the “Copenhagen Dilemma”.

The debate proved once again the strong commitment of the Intergroup members towards the implementation of the Initiative’s proposals. More MEPs expressed their appreciation towards the work put in the Initiative and their anger towards the Commission’s lack of action. They also showed will to explore other possibilities to create a strong EU legal framework that protects and supports traditional national and linguistic minorities.



FUEN PRESIDENT MEETS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



On 1 April, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, received the FUEN President and MEP Loránt Vincze in his office in Strasbourg. During the meeting, the importance of closer cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union, particularly in the area of minority rights, was emphasised.

FUEN HOSTS COORDINATION MEETING ON MINORITY ISSUES IN BRUSSELS

On 15 April, the FUEN organised a coordination meeting on minority issues with its Brussels-based partners. The meeting brought together representatives from the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages, the European Commission’s DG Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, as well as several civil society organisations working on national and linguistic minority rights across Europe and its neighbourhood. The agenda focused on exchanging thematic priorities, upcoming projects and opportunities for joint initiatives. Topics included minority education, youth participation, political participation, and the inclusion of minority communities, including Roma. A special emphasis was placed on improving cooperation between the institutions and ensuring that minority concerns are reflected in EU policies.

FUEN MEETS REPRESENTATION OFFICES OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONS' TO THE EU TO DISCUSS MINORITY ISSUES

In May, FUEN Brussels launched a round of meetings at the regional representation offices of the minority regions to the EU with a purpose to present the FUEN's projects and its lobbying activities in Brussels to promote the adoption of the EU policy on national minorities and linguistic groups. At each meeting, possible collaborations have been discussed to better promote the topic of minorities' inclusion, good models in the area of minorities' education, and cooperation between the FUEN and the minority regions.



EUROPEADA EXPERT GROUP

The EUROPEADA, the Football Championship of European Minorities, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2028 (having held five tournaments so far), has grown into a major sporting event for Europe's minority communities, with record numbers of participating men's and women's teams at its last edition, held in 2024 in the German-Danish border region.

The sixth edition of EUROPEADA is set to take place in the summer of 2028 (expected dates: 25 June – 2 July) in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region in northeastern Italy. The hosts are FUEN member organisations representing the Slovenian and Friulian communities in Italy – the Council of Slovenian Organisations, the Slovenian Cultural and Economic Union, and the Friulian Philological Society. The men's and women's matches will be played in 13 different locations across the region, spanning from the Alps to the Adriatic. The opening ceremony is planned to take place in Trieste/Trst/Triest, while the final matches will be held in Gurize/Gorizia/Gorica/Görz.

To preserve the sporting competition, cultural programme, and the unique "EUROPEADA spirit" in the years to come, experts are working together on a strategic direction for the tournament's future. The first expert group meeting took place online on 11 March 2025, attended by former organisers and delegation leaders of participating teams. In total, more than 30 people from

around 20 European minority communities took part in the session. A key focus was the close cooperation with the organisers of EUROPEADA 2028, who are actively involved in the process.

The members of the EUROPEADA expert group met in person for the first time as part of the FUEN Forum of European Minority Regions in Novi Sad (Serbia). 20 representatives from twelve different minority teams came together on 28 June to jointly work on the strategic development of the football tournament of Europe's autochthonous national minorities.

During the meeting in Novi Sad, the guidelines for EUROPEADA were further developed and refined in close coordination with the hosts of EUROPEADA 2028. The meeting focused on five thematic areas that are to serve as structural pillars of EUROPEADA in the future: the tournament system, accommodation and transport, the cultural programme, media work and partnerships. Implementation measures in cooperation with the host region were also discussed and agreed upon. The final guidelines are expected to be presented at the FUEN Congress 2025 in South Tyrol, Italy.



GERMAN FEDERAL ELECTION 2025: FUEN HIGHLIGHTS THE CONCERNS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

The election to the 21st German Bundestag in February 2025 was of particular importance for FUEN. As the largest umbrella organisation of the autochthonous national minorities in Europe, it sought dialogue with German parties and leading politicians. Through election checkstones and personal letters, FUEN set out its expectations: the protection and promotion of the national minorities in Germany (Danes, Frisians, Sorbs, German Sinti and Roma), stronger support for the German minorities abroad, and a more active German role in European minority policy. FUEN brought these concerns directly into the election campaign as well as into the subsequent coalition negotiations.



In April 2025, the new government formed by CDU, CSU and SPD explicitly committed itself in its coalition agreement to the national minorities in Germany and to the German minorities abroad. It also decided to strengthen the office of the Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities. In May, Natalie Pawlik stepped down from this position – she had worked closely with FUEN and its member organisations for more than three years. She was succeeded by Dr Bernd Fabritius, an experienced former officeholder and long-standing reliable partner. This ensures that, for FUEN, political dialogue with the German government remains a central part of its work in the new legislative period.



FREQUENT CASES

- BILINGUAL INSCRIPTIONS
- COMMUNITY RIGHTS
- DISCRIMINATION

MINORITY MONITOR

Launched at the 2019 FUEN anniversary Congress in Bratislava, the Minority Monitor (minoritymonitor.eu) was established to provide a common platform for autochthonous national minorities and language communities in Europe to make violations and disregard of their rights visible to the public. In cooperation with stakeholders from different minority sectors, the multi-partner project aims to identify and analyse the different challenges faced by the various minorities in Europe, and to monitor developments in the different areas of minority rights. Eventually, it will contribute to finding effective solutions providing targeted examples of good practices.

Processing the collected information about the more than 40 hate speech cases reported by the FUEN Member Organisations following the call launched at the end of May 2024, four thematic lines have been identified. The cases were hence grouped and published under four introductory articles, informing the public about problematic situations concerning cases of online hate speech (11 cases), hate speech used by politicians (8 cases), hate acts ranging from graffiti to acts of vandalism (17 cases), and hate speech targeting the linguistic diversity (10 cases). The total of four main articles and 46 cases covering the period 2015–2025, is alerting about the seriousness of the problem all over Europe.

The high number of cases and the importance of the topic, that calls for a supportive map to visualize the gravity of the issue, resulted in a plan for upgrading the MiMo website. The work on it started in the first half of 2025 with the aim of launching the new website in autumn 2025.

In addition to the hate speech articles, in 2025 an update regarding the educational situation of the German minority in Poland was published, followed by the case of the Crimean Tatars based on their resolutions submitted to the FUEN Congresses over the period 2012–2024.

WOMEN OF MINORITIES

Women of Minorities is a flagship initiative of FUEN. Its primary goal is to provide tailored solutions to foster the resilience of women from diverse backgrounds, enabling them to pursue their rights to equality and non-discrimination. The project aims to inform, inspire, and impact. It is a vision and a mission, open to everyone committed to advancing equality.

After the successful meeting on the topic of Equality instruments at the end of November 2023, hosted by the Croatian Centre in Vienna, in 2024 the FUEN Women of Minorities project organised the second thematic event in Athens, Greece between 30 October – 1 November 2024. The conference “Approaches to addressing multiple and intersectional forms of inequality”, kindly hosted by the Ecumenical Federation of Constantinopolitans (EFECON), gathered 30 participants from 14 European countries, representing 15 minorities. Guests to the event were also teachers from minority schools in Western Thrace, who are part of the Pomak Muslim community in Greece. Among the guest speakers were Professor Antonija Petričušić from the University at Zagreb, Anikó Orsós from the European Roma Rights Centre, Ingeborg Larssen, Advisor to the Sami Parliament in Norway, and Mihail Stojanoski, Administrator of GREVIO,

Council of Europe. The conference findings were published in a report entitled *Empowering Minority Women in Europe*.

The event was also used for filming selected women belonging to different minority communities for the project’s video-series, aiming to promote successful female role models. The second video, released in early 2025,

featured Ms Anikó Orsós, Women’s Rights Officer at the European Roma Rights Center, a representative of the Roma community in Hungary. The third video, released in August 2025, presents the challenges that women of minorities involved in politics and public life of their communities’ face. The three ladies featured in the videos are: Ms Adrianna Gergely Papp, Mayor of Debrőd-Debrad’, representing the Hungarian Minority from Slovakia, Ms Ingeborg Larssen, Senior Advisor to the Sami Parliament, representing the Sami minority



from Norway, and Ms Tatjana Novotni Golubić, Deputy County Prefect of Bjelovar-Bilogora County, from the Czech minority from Croatia.

Upcoming for the next period are a conference and production of additional videos from the series.



WORKING GROUPS IN FUEN

Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM)

The FUEN Working Group of German Minorities (AGDM) brings together organisations of German minority communities from across Europe and Central Asia. Active since 1991, the AGDM serves as the only common representation of these communities, working to ensure that their concerns and perspectives are heard in political debates in Germany and across Europe. It advocates for the preservation of language, culture and identity and fosters cooperation and dialogue between minority communities and political decision-makers.

33rd AGDM Annual Meeting: “We are not a museum, but a vibrant community”

From 13 to 16 October 2024, the 33rd Annual Meeting of the AGDM took place in Berlin. More than 40 representatives of German minorities from 17 countries in Europe and Central Asia discussed key challenges: preserving language and culture despite economic uncertainty, as well as the role of youth in safeguarding cultural heritage.

The meeting was opened by Natalie Pawlik, the then Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities. She emphasised the high importance of the work of the German minorities for the federal government, the need for sustainable youth support and the special assistance for the German minority in Ukraine.





3rd AGDM Youth Conference in Berlin: New Impulses and Sebastian Arion as New Youth Coordinator

From 16 to 17 October 2024, the 3rd AGDM Youth Conference took place in Berlin. Fourteen youth delegates from organisations of German minorities in Europe and Central Asia discussed project work, networking and political youth participation. The highlight was the election of a new AGDM Youth Coordinator.

The participants held expert discussions with Member of the German Bundestag Denise Loop, Dimitri Kessler (International Parliamentary Scholarship), as well as representatives of the Bundestag and the Federal Agency

The discussions at the meeting focused on the financial framework and the future of minority funding. This was addressed in particular with representatives of the Federal Foreign Office, where planned budget cuts for 2025 were discussed. Further political talks took place with Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, then Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community, and other members of the German Bundestag. The minority representatives spoke about their youth work, cultural preservation efforts and their role as bridge builders. In addition, AGDM delegates met with Martin Gerster, MP. Meetings with Stefan Seidler, MP and initiator of the Minority Parliamentary Circle in the German Bundestag, Christoph de Vries, MP, as well as with Dr. Franca Fülle, Jörn Thießén and other representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior also provided opportunities to discuss political and financial conditions for minority projects. Meetings with partner organisations also took place.

The AGDM Annual Meeting made clear that, despite financial challenges, German minorities continue to act as cultural and political bridge builders between their home countries and Germany, as well as within European peace policy. One participant summed it up: "We are not a museum, but a vibrant community."



for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb). Topics included civic engagement, volunteerism and political education – in particular the "JULEICA" youth leader project. Possible cooperation with the bpb was also discussed.

In conclusion, Sebastian Arion (German minority in Romania) was unanimously elected as the new AGDM Youth Coordinator. He succeeds Hanna Klein (German minority in Croatia), who held the position for two years.

in preserving history and identity and also highlighted the need for networking between institutions to strengthen mutual understanding.



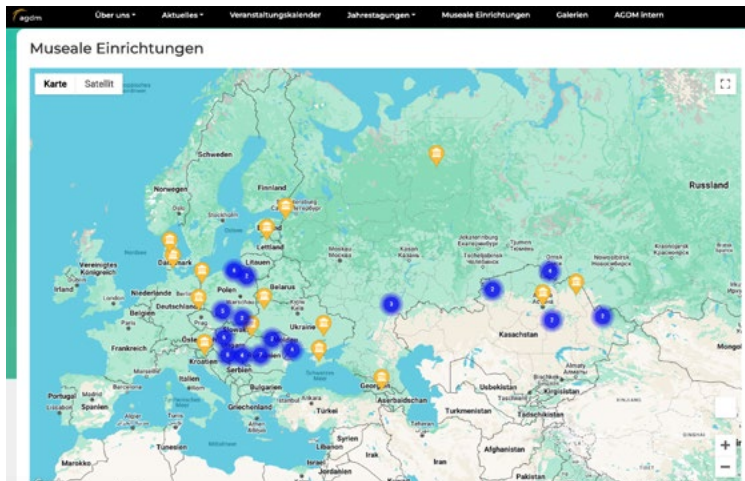
AGDM Launches Interactive Map of Museums of the German Minorities

In December 2024, the AGDM published an interactive map of museum institutions of the German minorities in Europe and Central Asia. This continuously updated platform provides an overview of museums, local heritage rooms, and private collections on the history of the German minorities. It aims to make cultural diversity visible, raise awareness of previously unknown institutions, and foster partnerships and new projects.

The map was presented at the workshop “Young Audiences in Museum Work” on 12–13 December 2024 at the Documentation and Exhibition Centre of the Germans in Poland (DAZ) in Opole. The event was organised by the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) in cooperation with the AGDM and the DAZ. AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida emphasized the importance of museums

Commemoration and Resolution on the 80th Anniversary of the End of the Second World War

In 2025, the AGDM participated in numerous commemorative events in various countries of Central and Eastern Europe, remembering the suffering of the



agdm Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Deutscher Minderheiten
in der FUEN

Resolution
hinsichtlich der Vertreibung und Verfolgung der
deutschen Minderheiten in Mittel- und Osteuropa
sowie Zentralasien, verfasst anlässlich des 80.
Jahrestages des Endes des Zweiten Weltkrieges

German civilian population after the Second World War – especially expulsions, forced labour and deportations. Representatives of the respective local German minorities and AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida commemorated the historical injustice and underlined the importance of a cross-border culture of remembrance.

Against this background, the AGDM adopted a resolution on 4 March in Berlin. It calls for a clear naming of the events and a distancing from the crimes committed against the German civilian population. It urges the successor states of those countries where displacement and persecution occurred after the Second World War, as well as the international community, to remember the suffering of the displaced and those who remained in a dignified manner and to publicly condemn these events.

Moreover, the AGDM member organisations stress the inseparable link between human rights and minority rights and appeal to the international community to actively support the protection of national and ethnic minorities.



“An open dialogue, the recognition of historical responsibility and the sustainable promotion of the rights of national and ethnic minorities are indispensable to preventing conflicts and wars in the future”, the resolution states.

AGDM at the International Folklore Festival of the Gottscheers in Slovenia

From 21 to 22 June 2025, the International Folklore Festival of the Gottscheer Altsiedler Association took place in Töplitz, Slovenia. Alongside cultural performances by groups from Slovenia and Romania, the focus was on the precarious situation of the unrecognised German minority in Slovenia. During a panel discussion on 20 June entitled



“Multilingualism as an Asset”, AGDM spokesperson Bernard Gaida criticised the continued non-recognition of the group as a national minority by the Republic of Slovenia: “This is the only German minority in an EU country without this status – with serious consequences.” In his festival speech, Gaida highlighted the symbolic significance of minorities for Europe’s diversity and praised the community’s “unbroken commitment” despite political obstacles.

Working Group of Slavic Minorities (AGSM)

The Working Group of Slavic Minorities is a well-established working group within the FUEN network, whose seminars on Slavic minorities in Europe have a long tradition. In 2017, the coordination of the AGSM was taken over by the FUEN Coordination Office, finally realising the working group's long-standing efforts to further develop and professionalise its activities. Not only did members confirm that this was an extremely sensible step, it was also reflected in FUEN's internal strategies.

The AGSM sends out a newsletter at regular intervals, has a new, thoroughly designed website (agsm.fuen.org) and has published a brochure about its members, which is already available in eight languages (German, English, Lower Sorbian, Slovenian, Croatian, Macedonian, Slovak and Serbian). These were important steps towards strengthening the public presence and awareness of the concerns of Slavic minorities in Europe.

Thanks to stable funding from the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany, the AGSM was able to continue its development and carry out its activities in 2024/25. The AGSM was able to meet for a working session during the FUEN Congress 2024 in Husum/Hüsem. In addition to presenting the AGSM's activities, the

members were also able to describe their situations.

27th Seminar of Slavic Minorities in Europe

In November 2024, the 27th Seminar of Slavic Minorities in Europe took place among the Czech minority in Košice, Slovakia. A total of over 30 people from 14 different minorities and 11 countries took part. The programme included exchanges with political representatives at local

and regional level and numerous discussions on minority rights in theory and practice.

The Czechs are one of the 12 recognised minorities in Slovakia. Their association was founded in 1993, immediately after the division of Czechoslovakia. It has seven branches in the country. According to the 2021 census, around 30,000 people stated Czech as their first nationality and around 15,000 as their second. They do not have their own schools or kindergartens.

The political situation and, in particular, the rise of right-wing





in the main resolution of the FUEN Congress in Husum.

In the historic city of Košice, Deputy Mayor Lucia Gurbáľová welcomed the AGSM, saying that the city was proud of its multiculturalism and talking about the city's support for various minorities. Participants took part in a city tour through the culturally rich old town of Košice, the first city to have its own coat of arms recognised by the king in the 15th century. Košice still uses its "last" version of the coat of arms from 1504.

extremism are current concerns for Slavic minorities in Europe. "The political situation is very critical in some countries. This also applies to the terrible war in Ukraine, which particularly affects us as AGSM. Nationalist thinking is gaining more and more influence. An important question is how language and culture can be preserved in the face of political uncertainty", said AGSM speaker Hartmut Leipner.

He reminded participants that the situation of indigenous minorities throughout Europe has deteriorated significantly over the past ten years. There are positive examples, but negative trends are also emerging, for example in the Baltic states, where Russian schools are being closed, but also in Poland. In countries that have ratified the Framework



Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Language Charter, the recommendations of the Convention are increasingly being ignored. This was highlighted

The next seminar on Slavic minorities is planned for November 2025 in the European Capital of Culture Gorica/ Nova Gorica, among the Slovenian minority in Italy.

FUEN Working Group of Turkic Minorities/Communities (TAG)

Established in 2013, the TAG unites Turkic minorities and communities across a wide geographical area stretching from the Balkans to the Caucasus under the umbrella of FUEN, promoting solidarity and cooperation among them. It aims to unite Turkic minorities and communities under the FUEN umbrella, fostering strong solidarity and cooperation among them. It strives to address the issues and demands of Turkic minorities and communities at the international level and amplify their voices to a broader audience.

The FUEN TAG Secretariat is currently being run by the Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe (ABTTF) which is an umbrella organization representing the Turkish community in Western Thrace, Greece. The Speaker of the Working Group is Halit Habip Oğlu, President of ABTTF. The TAG currently has 12 FUEN member organisations.

10th Annual Meeting of FUEN TAG, 30 October–2 November 2024

The meeting, held in Ankara, Türkiye, brought together representatives of eight Turkic minorities and communities from nine different European countries. Participants included the Turkish community in Western Thrace, the Turks of Rhodes and Kos, the Meskhetian Turks, the Crimean Tatars, the Turks of Kosovo, the Gagauz of Ukraine, the Turks of North Macedonia, the Gagauz of Moldova, and the Turks of Bulgaria.

The FUEN TAG delegation was received by the Vice President of the Republic of Türkiye and official authorities responsible for Turkish language and culture. The FUEN TAG delegation visited the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TÜRKSOY), the Yunus Emre Institute

(YEE), and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). The delegation was briefed on the activities of the organisations. FUEN TAG Speaker Halit Habip Oğlu provided information about FUEN and TAG, and ideas were exchanged on possible areas of cooperation. The following day, the FUEN TAG delegation was received by Deputy President of the Republic of Türkiye Cevdet Yılmaz at the Presidential Complex.

The FUEN TAG roundtable meeting on 1 November, where FUEN TAG's activities for 2025 were discussed, concluded with the determination of a joint roadmap for 2025 with the contributions of the participating organisations.

FUEN TAG at international events

The FUEN TAG members participated in the 17th Session of the United Nations (UN) Forum on Minority Issues held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28–29 November 2024. The session, themed “Representation and self-representation of minorities in public spaces and discourse”, was attended by the members of FUEN TAG.

FUEN TAG members also attended the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on 5–6 May 2025, entitled “Protecting Civic Space – the Role of Human Rights Defenders and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly”.

Working visit to Ankara, 25–27 December 2024

Halit Habip Oğlu met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director for EU Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye

and Ambassador Mehmet Kemal Bozay at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairperson of the TBMM Committee of Foreign Affairs and AK Party Ankara MP Fuat Oktay at the Parliament, Member of the PACE Turkish Delegation İYİ Party Edirne MP Mehmet Akalın and President of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) Abdullah Eren which is operating under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

During his meetings in Ankara, the FUEN TAG Speaker underlined the importance of Türkiye's relentless support to the Turkic world with all its institutions and organisations and noted that this support makes a great contribution to the continuation of the cultural and social existence of Turkic minorities and communities. Furthermore, the FUEN TAG Speaker discussed the needs and demands for strengthening the relations of Turkic minorities and communities with the motherland.

Working visit to Brussels, 21 May 2025

Halit Habip Oğlu met with Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union Vaqif Sadıqov at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Brussels.

11th Annual Meeting of FUEN TAG, 29 May-1 June 2025

Organised by the Youth and Innovative Development Association on behalf of the Bulgarian Turks, the meeting brought together representatives of Turkic minorities and communities living across a vast geographical area. Seventeen Turkic organisations from ten different European countries participated in the event. Participants included representatives of the Western Thrace Turks, the Turks of Rhodes and Kos, the Meskhetian Turks, the Crimean Tatars, the Turks of Kosovo,

the Gagauz Turks of Ukraine, the Turks of North Macedonia, the Gagauz Turks of Moldova, the Bulgarian Turks, and the Turks of Romania.

The FUEN TAG delegation met with representatives of the Turkish community in the city of Shumen, located in the Ludogorie (Deliorman) region in northeastern Bulgaria. Host and member of the Youth and Innovative Development Association, as well as Secretary of the Peace People's Cultural House, İbrahim Ahmed, provided participants with detailed information about Turkish cultural and artistic organisations in Bulgaria, their activities, and the structural challenges they face.

The FUEN TAG roundtable meeting held on 31 May began was opened by FUEN TAG Speaker Halit Habip Oğlu and FUEN Vice President Nabi İbrahimcik, followed by presentations on important developments over the past year, current issues and the activities of the represented organisations.

Following the meeting, the FUEN TAG delegation attended a tour of Varna hosted by MEP İlhan Kyuchyuk.



Working Group of Hungarian Communities in FUEN (Magyar Közösségek Munkacsoport – MKM)

FUEN's newest working group was established at the 2023 FUEN Annual Congress in Pécs/Fünfkirchen/Pecuh in Hungary. Here, the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ), the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia (KMKSZ), the Hungarian Alliance from Slovakia, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK) and the Hungarian Self-Governing National Community of Pomurje (MMÖNK) decided to establish a working group which advocates for the interests and concerns of the Hungarian minorities, represents their interests within FUEN and is the platform for exchanging the experiences of the members. KMKSZ president László Brenzovics is the Speaker of the Working Group of Hungarian Communities.

FUEN Congress 2024

Representatives of FUEN's Hungarian member organizations met on 21 September 2024 at the German-Danish-Frisian trilingual school in Risum-Lindholm as part of the FUEN Congress. The main topic of the meeting was the Hungarian aspects of Serbia and Ukraine's accession to the European Union. The speaker of the working group, László Brenzovics, pointed out how important it is that minority rights are applied during the EU accession negotiations of Ukraine, as part of the Copenhagen criteria. Otherwise, it would suggest to other member states, as well as to countries awaiting accession, that these rights are not binding, said the president of KMKSZ.

The participants decided on the accession of the Hungarian Civic Force (MPE) from Romania to



become the seventh member of the working group.

Annual Meeting in Croatia

The dire situation of the Subcarpathian Hungarians in Ukraine and the recent attacks against young Hungarians in Bratislava – Pozsony (Slovakia) and Cluj-Napoca

– Kolozsvár (Romania) were the main topics of the annual meeting of the Working Group of Hungarian Communities in FUEN (MKM).

Representatives of the Hungarian communities living in Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine joined the working group meeting between 24-26 April in Fiume*Rijeka, Croatia. The meeting, hosted by the HMDK at the Anna Villa, was also attended by Réka Brendus, Head of Department at the State Secretariat for National Policy of Hungary, Áron Léphaft, Deputy Head of the Office of the Hungarian National Assembly, FUEN President MEP Loránt Vincze and Éva Péntzes, Secretary General of FUEN.

MKM Speaker László Brenzovics spoke about the importance of establishing peace in Ukraine as soon as possible and stated that



Hungary's demand to restore the rights of Hungarians in Transcarpathia to their pre-2017 level is justified. The FUEN President talked about the organisation's work for the protection of minorities and drew attention to the spread of hate speech and the physical assaults associated with it. The participants of the meeting defined the priorities and work plan of the working group for the next period.

2024 Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Since its establishment, the MKM has been committed to put minority protection on the agenda of the EU Presidency. This became a reality in the second part of 2024, when Hungary started its half-year Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Hungary organised three international conferences on minority protection. The speaker and the coordinator of MKM, along with FUEN President Loránt Vincze – a Hungarian from Romania – were invited to these events.

On 7-8 November, at the conference on the situation of national minorities in the European Union, the FUEN President talked about the deteriorating state of minorities and presented the results and proposals of the FUEN Expert Meeting. He was one of the keynote speakers at the inter-parliamentary conference on cultural heritage and the identity of national communities organised by the Hungarian EU Presidency in the Hungarian Parliament on 5 December. On 12 December, FUEN's delegation took part in the conference of the Hungarian EU Presidency in Brussels, where the challenges and prospects for national minority protection in Europe were discussed together with representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the civil society.

Working Group on Education

Together with families and communities, schools form the foundation for the teaching and preservation of minority languages and cultures. This conviction led to the founding of the Education Working Group in 2017 during the FUEN Congress in Cluj-Napoca/Klausenburg (Romania). The aim of the working group is to create a supportive and solidary framework in which FUEN member organisations can exchange ideas on educational issues. The following are some of the highlights of the past year:



FUEN Congress

On 20 September 2024, the Education WG held a meeting in Risum-Lindholm/Risem-Lunham (Germany) as part of the 68th FUEN Congress. The participants were welcomed at Risum Skole / Risem Schölj, a school where the Danish and Frisian minorities enter into a dialog and work together constructively. During this meeting, the activities, the long-term goals of the Education WG, the projects for 2025 and the suggestions and wishes of the members were discussed. As part of the discussions, the idea of an interactive map emerged, which would serve as an educational tool to sensitise school classes on the topic of minorities.

Visit to Brussels

On 11 and 12 December 2024, an occasion-related visit took place in Brussels. The aim of the visit was to consolidate and expand the FUEN network and to present a teacher training program to potential partners. This program aims to promote intercultural exchange between educators working in educational institutions for national minorities. FUEN was able to arrange a meeting with two experts, Anna Solé Mena from the European Commission and Vicent Fenollar from NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity) who responded positively to the project and shared their expertise.

Visit to the German-speaking Community of Belgium

On 15 and 16 May 2025, a delegation of the Education WG travelled to the German-speaking Community of Belgium in Eupen to learn about the educational landscape in East Belgium, hold political discussions on European minority policy and strengthen dialogue with regional stakeholders. The visit included talks with the FUEN member organisation ProDG and a meeting with Oliver Paasch, Minister-President of the Government of the German-speaking Community of Belgium.

Conference participation in Davos

The coordinator of the Education WG took part in the conference “Multilingualism and linguistic minorities in a global context” in Davos (Switzerland) from 21 to 23 May 2025. The conference was organized by the University of Teacher Education Graubünden (PHGR) in cooperation with the University of Teacher Education Lucerne (PHLU) and under the patronage of the international consortium “Multilingualism as a chance”. Over three days and with more than 300 participants, (minority) languages took centre stage, be it at keynote speeches, workshops, concerts with traditional music or literary discussions. This conference was the perfect opportunity for the FUEN to listen to inspiring presentations and hold networking discussions.

FOTO: LUZIA SCHAER



Education WG brochure published

The FUEN Education WG has published a new brochure that presents its development, activities and future plans in a compact format. It is aimed at everyone interested in minority education in Europe. The brochure is available in German and can be downloaded as a PDF.



In addition to its annual meetings and member visits, the Education WG has several projects for the coming year: the publication of its presentation brochure in English, the creation of an interactive map of minorities, and the implementation of a teacher training program.

The Non-Kin State Working Group (NKS)

The Non-Kin State Working Group was founded by FUEN in 2017 to offer minorities without their own mother state the opportunity to discuss their specific concerns and challenges, develop solutions and formulate joint strategies for the preservation of their small languages and cultures. Currently, 40 organisations from 19 different countries are members of this community.

At the beginning of 2025, Katharina Schaible took over the coordination of the working group as representative for Ilona Tomić. In this role, she was responsible for translating the Non-Kin State brochure and organising the 2025 annual conference, among other things.

Annual Conference

The annual conference of the Non-Kin State Working Group within FUEN took place in 2025 in St. Vigil in Enneberg, South Tyrol (Italy). It was hosted by the FUEN member organisation Union Generela di Ladins dla Dolomites, which welcomed over 30 representatives of various minority groups without a mother state.

A central theme of the conference was the use of minority languages at major social events. Clear examples and practical applications were presented in various working sessions. A visit to a Ladin kindergarten and a primary and secondary school illustrated how early the promotion of multilingualism can begin in different regions.

At the round table, representatives of various member organisations and cultural and sports institutions exchanged views on common challenges and successes in the use of minority languages. The conference provided a valuable platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences and strengthening cooperation between minority groups in Europe. Plans for future projects, objectives and meetings were also developed during the internal meetings.



Another meeting of the working group is planned for the second half of 2025. During the FUEN Congress in Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol, the working group will hold an internal meeting to elect a new speaker.



European Dialogue Forum (EDF)

Established in 2008, the European Dialogue Forum's aim is to represent the interests of FUEN and its member organisations at the European institutions and to facilitate dialogue on minority issues.

EDF members at the 17th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva in November 2024

The Forum focused on the topic "Minority Representation and Self-Representation in Public Spaces and Discourses" and brought together states, UN agencies, human rights organisations, experts, NGOs, and minority representatives from around the world. During the session on "Minority Representation in Public Spaces", Olivia Schubert delivered an intervention on behalf of FUEN's 119 member organisations from 38 countries. She underlined FUEN's mission to preserve and promote the rights, identities, languages, and cultures of minorities. In her statement, Schubert also highlighted FUEN's Minority SafePack Initiative, which calls for stronger EU measures to safeguard minority rights.

FUEN's EDF Holds Talks with PACE members in Strasbourg in January 2025

From 27 to 29 January 2025, a delegation of FUEN's EDF visited the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg (France). The aim of the discussions with PACE members from Poland, Finland, Moldova, Spain and Serbia as well as with representatives of the Council of Europe's Directorate General for Democracy and Human Dignity was to strengthen the protection of minorities at the European level and to present FUEN's work.



Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is a European umbrella organisation of 40 youth organisations of autochthonous national minorities and ethnic groups from all over Europe. YEN supports the preservation and development of the language, culture, and identity as well as the rights of European minorities with a unique focus on young people and their interests. It organises international seminars, trainings, workshops as well as cultural and social gatherings for young minority members. The main seminars of the year – around four per year – are hosted by minority youth organisations of the YEN network. These workshops are facilitated using methods of non-formal education, meaning that the individual experiences and contributions of the participants

of YEN consists of seven young representatives of different European minorities. The work of the Board is supported by three Working Groups dealing with the topics of Minority Rights and Politics, Communication, and Member Integration. The YEN Office, located in Berlin, has welcomed new staff members: both the Secretary General and Project Manager positions have been filled. YEN also continues its role as a consortium member in the RISE UP project, and thus currently employs three staff members.

YEN concluded 2024 with an Autumn Seminar titled “Raise Your Voice” in Pécs, Hungary hosted by DYN – Diverse Youth Network, an organisation mainly advocating for the rights of Roma and the



actively shape the workshops and topics that are being explored.

YEN understands itself as a self-organised and self-managed youth organisation and values and enjoys strong cooperation with FUEN. The Board

LGBTQIA+* community. Participants took part in workshops on advocacy work, aiming to equip participants with concrete skills to effectively represent their rights, needs, and wishes as members of a minority.



Minority Youth in the Spotlight

The topic of 2025 in YEN is "Minority Youth in the Spotlight". It is this year's aim to empower, qualify and encourage young people who belong to national, ethnic and linguistic minorities to reflect on and take an active role in self-representation and visibility actions. YEN wants the participants at its seminars to gain knowledge, inspiration, competencies, and motivation to actively create and spread their own image in a self-determined way.

These ambitious seminars simultaneously support YEN's own visibility actions, and ensure they reflect visions from the network and act as an amplifier for the ideas from youth participating in the events, thereby supporting the development of understanding, acceptance, and tolerance from the majority, and between minority communities.

In 2025, YEN's traditional Easter Seminar was hosted by its Member Organisation BJDM, the German Minority in Poland. At the end of this seminar the annual General Assembly took place, where elections were held and resolutions were adopted.

In 2024 YEN implemented shorter, more skill-focused training sessions. As these more compact seminars were greatly appreciated by the members, they implemented three shorter seminars in 2025. The first training on Video and Documentation was held in Berlin,

YEN believes that young people have a voice, and that their voices need to be heard. YEN seeks active participation and equips and empowers young people to take action, voice their opinions, and take part in shaping their communities. YEN believes that young people are not only the future, but also the present.

If you are interested in cooperating with YEN or if you have any other questions, please send an email to: office@yeni.org

and the second on Graphic Design was held in Vienna. The third training will take place in November in the Basque Country and will focus on "Creative Actions in the public sphere".

YEN looks forward to its shared event with the Minority Competence Network Schleswig-Holstein (MKN), where about 20 young people from the YEN network will attend workshops and excursions on the Knivsberg, in Denmark, which also is YEN's birthplace. Under the name "Youth and Minority – Conversations on Identity and Perspectives"

participants will explore themes such as "Minority Identity", "Minority Rights and Activism", but also explore the Danish-German border region and its history and minorities.

The Autumn Seminar will be hosted by the Youth Club of the Czech Minority in Croatia, which is in the process of being incorporated into the YEN Network.

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BUILDING-UP THE FUEN

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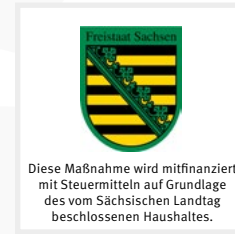


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